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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8017
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 1357
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EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 -
TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: All six Tuesday morning papers gave top coverage to memorial services for the 9/11 victims held in New York and other places Monday. Most papers said in inside-page reports that in Tokyo, Ambassador Schieffer led a memorial ceremony held Monday evening in front of the US Embassy.

¶1. There were no immediate editorials or commentaries concerning memorial services held throughout the US and elsewhere in the world.

¶2. "Five years After 9/11: Where is bin Laden" The top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri's Washington correspondent Sakamoto wrote (9/12): "Although Tuesday marked the fifth anniversary of 9/11, the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, believed to be the leader of the international terrorist group al-Qaeda, remain unknown. According to the Washington Post, the USG has not obtained information that could help lead to the arrest of bin Laden in more than two years, making Americans increasingly pessimistic about the possibility.

¶3. "Meanwhile, al-Qaeda's number-two man Ayman al-Zawahiri appeared in a video posted on the Internet Sunday, showing that he was in good health and warning of new terrorist attacks. The Washington Post attributed the failure to locate bin Laden to the CIA's inability to penetrate al-Qaeda and the declining interest in tracking him down on the part of the Pakistani government, which recently concluded a truce with the Taliban-affiliated groups."

¶4. "Islamic Forces Gaining Strength" The business-

oriented Nihon Keizai commented (9/12): "It is not only the United States that has changed after 9/11. A backlash against the US attempt to eradicate terrorism through force is spreading from the Middle East, with Islamic parties gaining strength in national assemblies in Turkey, Morocco, Kuwait, Jordan, and elsewhere. This development is deeply altering international relations, drawing Europe, Russia, and China in as well."

SCHIEFFER